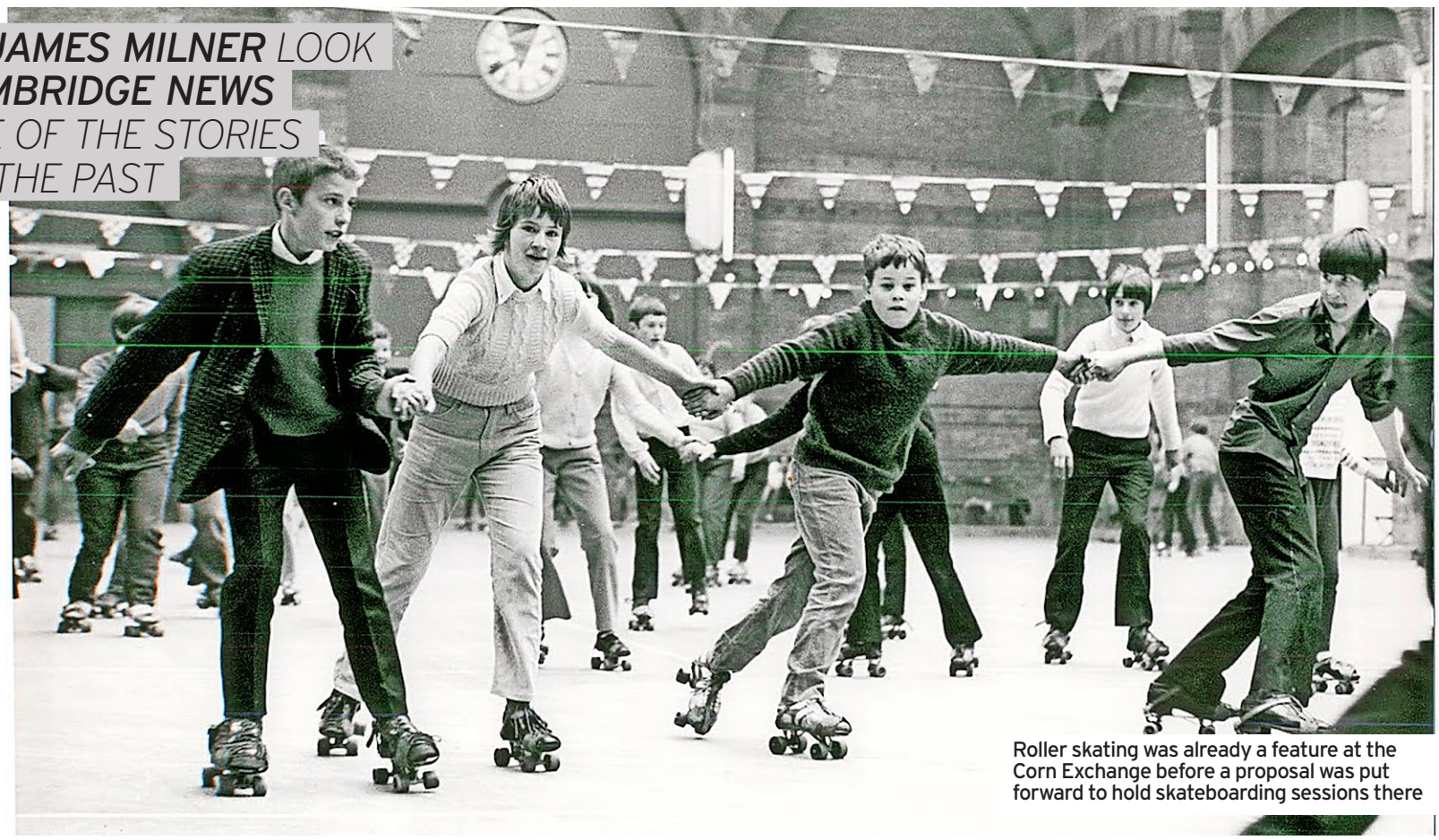
NOSTALGIA

Which colleges could irreverent new comedy series be based on?

MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST



Roller skating was already a feature at the Corn Exchange before a proposal was put forward to hold skateboarding sessions there

University braced for new TV series – 1987

CAMBRIDGE author Tom Sharpe's gloriously irreverent comic novel *Porterhouse Blue* is about to become a new four-part TV series and the university should be bracing itself.

Nothing is sacred: a dignified procession through the streets dissolves into farce and gas-filled condoms fill a college courtyard like some shimmering, quivering wheatfield.

Every college is convinced it is based on them. Little was actually filmed in Cambridge; Ely provided a more attractive alternative.

David Jason stars in the role of Scullion, the college porter who will put up with anything from the students as long as he considers them 'gentlemen'

Rising cost of May Ball tickets – 1986

A MAY Ball is the most glamorous, ritzy event of the year and undergraduates do not mind paying for it.

The most expensive double ticket for Peterhouse costs 125 guineas but includes dinner and free champagne all night.

Trinity charges diners a more affordable £90. But the ball everyone wants to go to is at Clare College where £220 has been paid on the black market by a couple desperate to attend.

Its serene setting with the riverside gardens makes it the most romantic and Germany's *Stern* magazine is covering it.

St John's College May Ball have booked Imagination and Ruby Turner together with the Coldstream Guards and rock group The Inspirational Choir.

There will be free drinks and a buffet all night long although roast swan is no longer served.

The 1,700 guests include 20 from the New York banking firm, Goldmann Sachs, and officers from the Sultanate of Oman will also be flying in.

Cambridge-based chart-toppers Katrina and the Waves will be the star attraction at Trinity College May Ball while Sandie Shaw will also be returning to the college where she sang before in the swinging Sixties. Jazz and steel bands – even Scottish pipers – will play till dawn.

An all-night casino, laser displays and cabaret acts will also ensure there is no time to be bored.

But King's College stopped holding May Balls in the sixties: students decided they were too expensive and not the sort of entertainment they wished to be associated with. They now hold June events instead.

Ian Richardson and David Jason starred in the television series Porterhouse Blue

CHANNEL 4

A village feel in the heart of city – 1980

ONCE over the railway bridge, Cambridge's Mill Road takes on the atmosphere of a village.

The roads and pavements widen and, in spite of the busy traffic, the pace of life seems to slacken.

It is a street where you can enjoy sauntering along, enjoying the many and varied shops.

There is K.S. Neale which specialises in door handles and locks, David Neech's where you can buy an electric organ, and Surefit the stretch cover specialists.

Cornwell's is a fascinating shop to browse through looking for bargains, piled from floor to ceiling with new and second-hand furniture.

Corn Exchange on board to welcome skaters – 1977

THE Mayor of Cambridge, Coun Maurice Garner, has offered to arrange skateboarding sessions for city children in the Corn Exchange, where the council has a roller skating area, to keep them off the streets and away from the traffic.

The new craze is rapidly gaining popularity and already some schools have banned their pupils from practising in the school grounds.

For months, the road safety committee has expressed concern at the growing practice of skateboarding in the streets.

A council report concludes: "As more people join in with the sport, there is no doubt that the local authority will be asked to provide skate parks such as are provided in the United States."

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